THE HUMBLE

PETITION

OF THE

Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons

of the City of *LONDON*,

IN

Common-Councell

ASSEMBLED,

Presented to the Right Honourable

THE

LORDS and COMMONS

in Parliament Assembled:

WITH

The Answers of both Houses to the said

PETITION.

Printed by RICHARD COTES, Printer to the honorable City of *London*, *October* 17. 1648.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOVRABLE
THE
Lords and Commons
In Parliament Assembled;

The humble Petition of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London in Common-Councell assembled.

SHEWETH,

THat the Petitioners with all thankfulnesse do acknowledg, that by the blessing of God upon the great and pious endeavours of the Honorable Houses, much good hath been obtained; as unto the Kingdome in generall, so particularly unto this City, in the removal of many scandalous and ill-affected Ministers, and giving

opportunity thereby for the placing godly, learned, and painfull and orthodoxall in their roomes; who by their conſtant preaching and endeavours, have laboured againſt the errors, hereſies, ſchiſms, ſuperſtition, profaneneſſe, and malignity of the times, and have been (under God) very inſtrumentally ſerviceable, ſince the beginning of theſe troubles, to raiſe and ſtirre up the hearts and affections of the people of this City, to join with, and effectually to aſſiſt both with their Lives and Eſtates, the Honorable Houſes of Parliament, in their undertakings, for the ſuppreſſing of the adverſe power raiſed againſt them; that ſo Religion, Liberties, and the work of Reformation might be carryed on to a happy ſettlement in Church and Common-wealth: But your Petitioners have for a long time (to the great grief of their ſouls) foreſeen and bewailed the ſad condition this City was then comming into, and which ſince is come upon it, by reaſon of the want of competent maintenance, to uphold and cheriſh therein, their ſaid godly and painfull Miniſters, and have by many indeavours for divers yeares paſt, been conſidering, how a comfortable livelihood for the ſaid Miniſters might be obtained, but could by no means of themſelves effect ſo great a worke, without the help and aſſiſtance of this Honorable Houſe; unto whom therefore your Petitioners thought fit to have made their addreſſes, and humbly prayed your help and aſſiſtance therein: But finding then the other great and weighty affairs of the Kingdome ſo preſſing, wee did forbear untill ſome ſeaſonable time might be found for this ſo pious a work. But in the mean while the thing we feared is come to paſs. Our Miniſters for want are neceſſitated to leave this City, and many have already removed themſelves and families into other parts of the Kingdome, and divers others likewiſe going,

ing; whereby the City is like to bee rendred in a very ſad condition for their ſoules; finding by a repreſentation lately preſented to the Common-councell, from the Provinciall Aſſembly of *London*, that there are at preſent about 40. pariſh Churches in the ſaid Province, that have no allowed or ſetled Miniſter belonging to them; and your Petitioners to their grief do ſee divers Churches ſhut up, and have none to officiate in them, giving thereby opportunity to ſcandalous and il-affected Miniſters to creep in, and ſeduce the people, and many more will be in ſhort time, if not timely prevented; and how great diſhonour that will be to God and miſery to this City, we need not expreſſe to this Honorable Houſe, whoſe religious conſtant care and endeavours is and hath been to nouriſh and ſupport a godly and faithfull Miniſtery in the whole Kingdome, and are confidently aſſured, will not be wanting to doe the like for this great and populous City, and the reſt of the Province (the affections and ſervice whereof, this Honorable houſe hath been pleaſed ſo oft to ſignifie their good acceptance of) there being above one third part of the Pariſhes within the Province where the maintenance for the Miniſters are not more then from 16*l.* to 60.*l.* *per annum*, many others little more, and thereof a great part cannot bee received, partly through the diſaffection of many to the Reformation and Government now eſtabliſhed; and partly through the poverty of others in theſe hard times.

Your Petitioners therefore for preventing of the ſaid miſeries, and for the future incouragement, and ſetling of a godly, painfull and Orthodoxall Miniſtery within the ſaid Province, to the glory of God, the honour of the Parliament, good of this Province, and gayning many ſouls unto God, Doe humbly pray,

That this Honorable House will bee pleased to take the premises into your most pious and serious consideration, And to grant that the Impropriations of the late Archbishops and Bishops, the Houses and Lands now or late belonging to Deans, Chapiters, and Prebends, within the said Province, and the Rents and Revenues thereof, may be setled for an augmentation of maintenance of the Ministery of the said Province, with such further addition as the greatnesse of the Petitioners necessity doe require, and the Honorable Houses in their Wisdomes shall see meet.

And the Petitioners shall pray, &c.

Die

Die Lunæ, 16. Octobr. 1648.

AFter the Petition of the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, was this day read in the Houſe, The Petitioners being called in again, they were anſwered as followeth;

That the Houſe gives them thankes for the care they have for a faithfull Miniſtery within the Dioceſſe of *London*, And that the Lords will doe what lyeth in them, for the furthering of their good deſires therein according to their Petition.

Jo. Brown, Cler. Parliamentorum.

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Die Lunæ, 16. *Octob.* 1648.

THe House being informed that the Sheriffs and Aldermen of *London* were at door, they were called in, and after a short preamble made by Sheriffe *Viner*, he delivered his message. That the Lord Major, Aldermen, and Common-councell of the City of *London* commanded him to deliver this their humble Petition, which he did humbly present, and desired the same might be read, which after the Petitioners were withdrawn was read.

Ordered by the House of Commons that the said Petition be committed to

Mr. *Knightley*	Mr. *Gesson*	Mr. *Whitaker*
Mr. *Fows*	Mr. *Wheeler*	Col. *Strond*
Mr. *Trenchard*	Mr. *Vassall*	Col. *Rigby*
Col. *Copley*	Mr. *Solwey*	Mr. *Tate*
Sir *Martin Lumbley*	Mr. *Preistley*	Sir *Thomas Dacre*
Mr. *Gourden*	Mr. Sheriffe *Brown*	Sir *Will. Lister*
The Citizens and	Sir *Robert Harley*	Col. *Brith*
Burgesses of the City	Alder. *Hoyle*	Mr. *Edward Stephens*
of *London*,	Mr. *Got*	Sir *John Boucher*,

Or any five of them, and all that will come are to have voices.

The said Committee to have power to confer with the Common-counicel of the City of *London*, or such as they shall appoint, how an expedient may be found out for setling maintenance upon a Preaching Ministery within the said City, and are to consider the Ordinance touching the late Dean, and Chapiter of *Pauls*, and how the same hath been discharged and to find out the cause why the said Churches stand empty and unserved; with power also to consider of an expedient how a Preaching Ministery may be maintained in al other Cities within this Kingdom. The said Committee is to sit at two a clock this afternoon in the *Exchequer* Chamber, and so *de die in diem*, and for what concerns the City of *London*, to make report to the House thereof forthwith.

The Petitioners being again called in, Mr. *Speaker* by command of the House gave them this answer; Gentlemen, The House hath considered of your Petition, and findes it a thing of very great consequence, and have referred the same to a Committe who are to sit this afternoon, and are to confer with you how an expedient may be found out for maintenance of a Preaching Ministery within the City, and to report the same forthwith.

H. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.